Facts & Figures

Ethiopia is slightly less than twice the size of Texas and comprises a high plateau with a central mountain range divided by Great Rift Valley. Most (83%) of the country’s 86 million population reside in rural areas. The largest city, Addis Ababa, has around 3 million people, and is growing at a rate of approximately 4% annually.

Global Ranking: Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries, yet is amongst the fastest growing non-oil economies in the world.

Average Income: About 66% of the population lives on under $2.00 a day.

Improved Water Access: Only 10% of rural and 29% of urban population has access to improved water.

Literacy: Only 30% of adult and 55% of children are literate.

Instructors

Dr. Phoebe Godfrey is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence in the Sociology Department and has been at UCONN since 2006. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon (1989-1991), teaching English as a Second Language. She went on to complete a M.A degree from Teachers College, Columbia University in International Educational Development, which focused on the role of education in social, political and economic development in the Global South.

Dr. Carol Atkinson-Palombo is an Assistant Professor in the Geography Department and has been at UCONN since 2007. Alongside faculty from UCONN’s Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, she helped to found the Ethiopian Institute for Water Resources (EIWR) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2011. Her research and teaching specializations are Urban Geography, Sustainable Development and Sustainability.

Join us for an Ethiopian adventure in a place that has its own calendar, its own time, and all of our histories.

ETHIOPIA
STUDY ABROAD
July 15th–August 15th 2014

SOCI3993/GEOG4093
Students will spend their first week in Addis Ababa getting oriented to the city and its people. Each morning, local instructors will provide basic instruction in one of the country’s most popular languages, Amharic, and explain some of the country’s cultural practices. Afternoons will be spent visiting sites of cultural, historical, and political significance such as Entoto Mountain, the Museum of the Red Terror, the National Museum, St. George’s Cathedral, and the Mercato, Africa’s largest open-air market.

Orientation will be followed by a three-week long internship at a Non-Government Organization (NGO) in Addis Ababa that specializes in water-related issues from a sustainability perspective.

Every effort will be made to match the skills and interests of the students with the needs of the NGO to create a mutually-beneficial partnership.

**Learning Objectives & Sample Organizations**

This particular type of Service Learning experience has been chosen to help create partnerships to generate the knowledge to continuously adapt to changing social, environmental and economic conditions. NGOs may include:

- MELCA
- Millennium Water Alliance
- CARE
- World Vision
- Water Aid

**Why Ethiopia?**

As a country undergoing rapid change, Ethiopia provides a living laboratory to examine the challenges that arise when Western or neoliberal approaches to development are overlaid onto the existing physical and social structures associated with one of the world’s least developed countries. Particular emphasis is placed on water resources because the lack of capacity in this sector arguably limits progress in other areas such as educational attainment, health, energy development, and the expansion of industry.